

W R E

How now, your *wereful* weapons drawn? *Shakepear.*
The true evangelical zeal should abound more in the mild
and good natured affections, than the vehement and *wereful*
passions. *Sprat's Sermons.*
WRA'THFULLY. *adv.* [from *wereful*.] Furiously; passion-
ately. *Goldsmith.*
—— Gentle friends, be not *wereful*. *Milton.*
Let's kill him boldly, but not *wereful*. *Shakepear.*
WRA'THLESS. *adj.* [from *wrath*.] Free from anger.
Before his feet, to sheep and lions lay, *Shakepear.*
Fearless and *wereful*, while they heard him play. *Waller.*
To **WREAK.** *v. a.* Old pretense and part. pass. of *wroke*. [*Fræ-*
can, Saxon; *wrecken*, Dutch; *rechen*, German.]
1. To revenge.
In an ill hour thy foes thee hither sent,
Another's wrongs to *wreak* upon thy self, *Fairy Queen.*
Him all that while occasion did provoke
Against Pyrocles, and new matter form'd
Upon the old, him stirring to be *wroke*
Of his late wrongs. *Fairy Queen.*
Pale death our valiant leader hath oppress'd,
Come *wreak* his loss, whom bootless ye complain. *Fairfax.*
2. To execute any violent design. This is the sense in which
it is now used.
On me let death *wreak* all his rage. *Milton.*
He left the dame,
Resolv'd to spare her life, and save her shame,
But that detested object to remove,
To *wreak* his vengeance, and to cure her love. *Dryden.*
Think how you drove him hence, a wand'ring exile,
To distant climes, then think what certain vengeance
His rage may *wreak* on your unhappy orphan. *Smith.*
Her husband scourg'd away,
To *wreak* his hunger on the destin'd prey. *Pope.*
3. It is corruptly written for *reck*, to heed; to care.
My matter is of churlish disposition,
And little *wreaks* to find the way to heav'n
By doing deeds of hospitality. *Shak. As you like it.*
WREAK. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Revenge; vengeance.
Fortune, mine avowed foe,
Her *wereful wreaths* themselves do now allay. *Pa. Queen.*
Join with the Goths, and with revengeful war
Take *wreak* on Rome for this ingratulate,
And vengeance on the traitor Saturnine. *Shaksp. Tit. Andr.*
2. Passion; furious fit.
What and if
His sorrows have so to overwhelm'd his wits,
Shall we be thus afflicted in his *wreaths*,
His fits, his frenzy, and his biternels? *Shaksp. Tit. Andr.*
WRE'AKFUL. *adj.* [from *wreak*.] Revengeful; angry.
Call the creatures,
Whose naked natures live in all the spite
Of *wreakful* heaven. *Shakepear.*
She in Olympus' top
Must visit Vulcan for new arms, to serve her *wreakful* soul.
Chapman's Iliad.
WRE'AKLESS. *adj.* [I know not whether this word be miswrit-
ten for *reckless*, careless; or comes from *wreak*, revenge, and
means unrevengeful.]
So flies the *wereful* shepherd from the wolf;
So firt the harmless flock doth yield his fleece,
And next his throat unto the butcher's knife. *Shaksp. H. VI.*
WREATH. *n. f.* [*præðs*, Saxon.]
1. Any thing curled or twined.
The *wreath* of three was made a *wreath* of five: to these
three first titles of the two houses, were added the authorities
parliamentary and papal. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
Clouds began
To darken all the hill, and smoke to roll
In dusky *wreaths* reluctant flames. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
He of his tortuous train
Curld many a wanton *wreath*. *Milton.*
Let altars smook,
And richest gums, and spice, and incense roll
Their fragrant *wreaths* to heav'n. *Smith's Phæd. and Hipp.*
2. A garland; a chaplet.
Now are our brows bound with victorious *wreaths*,
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments. *Shaksp. R. III.*
Dropp'd from his head, a *wreath* lay on the ground.
Reformation.
The boughs of Lotos, form'd into a *wreath*,
This monument, thy maiden beauty's due, *Shaksp. R. III.*
High on a plane-tree shall be hung to view. *Dryden.*
When for thy head the garland I prepare,
A second *wreath* shall bind Aminta's hair;
And when my choicest flocks thy worth proclaim,
Alternate verse shall bless Aminta's name. *Prior.*
To prince Henry the laurels of his rival are transferred,
with the additional *wreath* of having conquered that rival.
Shaksp. care illustrated.
To

W R E

To **WREATH**, *v. a.* **WREATH**, *v. a.* pre-terite *wreathed*, part. pass. *wreathed*, *wreathen*. [from the noun.]

1. To curl; to twirl; to convolve.

Longville

Did never sonnet for her fake compile,
Nor never laid his *wreathed* arms athwart
His loving bosom, to keep down his heart. *Shakespeare.*

About his neck

A green and gilded snake had *wreath'd* it self,
Who, with her head, nimble in threats approach'd
The opening of his mouth; but suddenly,
Seeing Orlando, it unlik'd it self,
And with indented glides did slip away. *Shak. As you like it.*

The beard of an oat is *wreathed* at the bottom, and one
smooth entire straw at the top: they take only the part that is
wreath'd, and cut off the other.

2. It is here used to *wreath*.

Impatient of the wound,
He rolls and *wreaths* his shining body round;
Then headlong shoots beneath the dashing tide. *Gay.*

3. To interweave; to entwine one in another.

Two chains of pure gold of *wreathen* work shalt thou make
them, and fasten the *wreathen* chains to the ouches. *Ex. xxviii.*

As snakes breed in dunghills not singly, but in knots; so in
such base noisome hearts you shall ever see pride and ingrati-
tude indivisibly *wreathed* and twisled together. *South.*

Here, where the labourer's hands have form'd a bow'r
Of *wreathing* trees, in finging waste an hour. *Dryden.*

4. To encircle as a garland.

In the flow is that *wreath* the sparkling bowly,
Fell adds his, and pois'nous serpents rowl. *Prior.*

5. To encircle as with a garland.

For thee she feeds her hair,
And with thy winding ivy *wreathes* her lance. *Dryden.*

The soldier, from successful camps returning,
With laurel *wreath'd*, and rich with hostile spoil,
Severs the bull to Mars. *Prior.*

WREATHY, *adj.* [from *wreath*] Spirally; curled; twisled.

That which is preferred at St. Dennis, near Paris, hath
wreathy spires, and cochleary turnings about, which agreeth
with the description of an unicorn's horn in *Ælian*. *Brown.*

WRECK, *n. f.* [præce, Saxon, a miserable person; *wracke*,
Dutch, a ship broken.]

1. Destruction by being driven on rocks or shallows at sea
destruction by sea.

Fair be ye sure; but hard and obfinate,
As is a rock amidst the raging floods;
'Gainst which a ship, of succour desolate,
Doth suffer *wreck* both of herself and goods. *Spenser.*

Like those that see their *wreck*
E'en on the rocks of death; and yet they strain,
That death may not then idly find t' attend
To their uncertain talk, but work to meet their end. *Daniel.*

Think not that flying fame reports my fate;
I present, I appear, and my own *wreck* relate. *Dryden.*

2. Diffolution by violence.

Not only Paradise,
In this commotion, but the flarry cope
Had gone to *wreck*. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

3. Ruin; destruction.

Whether he was
Combain'd with Norway, or did line the rebel
With hidden help and vantage; or that with both
He labour'd in his country's *wreck*, I know not. *Shakespeare.*

4. It is misprinted here for *wreck*.

He cry'd as raging seas are wont to roar,
When wintry फिर his wrathful *wreck* doth threat. *Spenser.*

To **WRECK**, *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To destroy by dashing on rocks or sands.

Have there been any more such tempests, wherein the hap-
wretchedly been *wrecked*? *Spenser on Ireland.*

A pilot's thumb,
Wreck'd as homeward he did come. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

The coral found growing upon *wrecked* ships and lost a-
chors, that are daily dragged up out of the sea, demonstrateth
that coral continues to be formed to this day. *Woodward.*

2. To ruin.

Weak and envy'd, if they should conspire,
They *wreck* themselves, and he hath his desire. *Daniel.*

3. In the following passages it is ignorantly used for *wreck*, in
different senses of *revenge* and *execute*.

Eighty odd years of sorrow have I seen,
And each hour's joy *wreck'd* with a week of teen. *Shakespeare.*

I faint! I die! the goddess cry'd: with meekness
O cruel, could'st thou find none other
To *wreck* thy spleen on? Paricide! *Shakespeare.*

Like **NERO**, thou hast slain thy mother. *Prior.*

To **WRECK**, *v. n.* To suffer *wreck*.

With manlier objects we must try
His contancy, with such as have more flow,
Of worth, of honour, glory, and popular praise,
Rocks whereon creature men have often *wreck'd*. *Milton.*

W R E

WREN. *n. f.* [*pinna*, Saxon.] A small bird. *Bacon*
 The poor *wrens* are, *Shakespeare*
 The most diminutive of birds, will fight;
 Her young ones in her nest, against the owl. *Shakspeare, Moch.*
 All ages have conceived that the *wren* is the least of birds,
 yet the discoveries of America have shewed us one far less,
 the hum-bird not much exceeding a beetle.
Bacon's Vulgar Errors.
 To WRENCH. *v. a.* [*pringan*, Saxon; *wrenchen*, Dutch.]
 1. To pull by violence; to wrench; to force.
Wrench his sword from him. *Shakspeare, Othello.*
 Oh form!
 How often do'st thou with thy safe, thy habit,
Wrench awe from fools, and tie the wiser fools
 To thy false seeming! *Shakspeare, Measure for Measure.*
 Give me that mottock and the wrenching iron.
 Caesar's army, wanting something, demanded a million
 or discharge, though with no intention it should be granted; but
 thought by that means to *wrench* him to their other desires.
Bacon.
 Sing the Parthian, when transfix'd he lies,
Wrenching the Roman javlin from his thighs. *Dryden.*
 Achilles *wrench'd* it out, and sent again *Dryden.*
 The hostile gift.
 Struggling to get loose, I broke the strings, and *wrenched*
 out the pegs that fastened my arm to the ground. *Gull Travels.*
 2. To sprain; to dislocate.
 O most small fault!
 How ugly didst thou in Cordelia show?
 Which, like an engine, *wrencht* my frame of nature
 From the fix'd place; drew from my heart all love,
 And added to the gall. *Shakspeare, King Lear.*
 You *wrenched* your foot against a stone, and were forced to
 flay. *Swift.*
 WRENCH. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
 1. A violent pull or twist.
 2. A sprain.
 Some small part of the foot being injured by a *wrench*, the
 whole leg thereby loses its strength. *Locke.*
 3. WRENCHES, in *Chaucer*, signifies means, sleights, subtilties;
 which is, I believe, the sense here.
 He resolved to make his profit of this bunfeln of Britain, as
 a quarrel for war; and that of Naples as a *wrench* and mean
 for peace. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
 To WREST. *v. a.* [*præstan*, Saxon.]
 1. To twist by violence; to extort by writhing or force.
 To wring this sentence, to *wrest* thereby out of men's hands
 the knowledge of God's doctrine, is without all reason. *Ajcham.*
 To what wretched fate reserv'd,
 Better end here unborn! Why is life given,
 To be thus *wrested* from us? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
 Where you charged in person, you were a conqueror: the
 rebels afterwards recovered strength, and *wrested* that victory
 from others that they had lost to you. *Dryden.*
 Our country's cause,
 That drew our sword, now *wrests* 'em from our hand,
 And bids us not delight in Roman blood,
 Unprofitably shed. *Addison's Cato.*
 O prince, I blush to think what I have said;
 But fate has *wrested* the confession from me. *Addison.*
 2. To dislocate; to writhe; to force.
 So far to extend their speeches, is to *wrest* them against
 their meaning. *Hooker.*
 My father's purposes have been mistook,
 And some about him have too lavishly
Wrested his meaning and authority. *Shakspeare, Henry IV.*
Wrest once the law to your authority;
 To do a great right, do a little wrong. *Shakespeare.*
 WREST. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
 1. Dislocation; violence.
 Whereas it is concluded, out of those too weak premises,
 that the retaining of divers things in the church of England,
 which other reformed churches have cast out, must needs argue
 that we do not well, unless we can show that they have done
 ill: what needed this *wrest*, to draw out from us an accusation
 of foreign churches? *Hooker.*
 2. It is used in *Spenser* and *Shakespeare* for an active or moving
 power: I suppose, from the force of a tilter acting with his
 lance in his rest.
 Adown he kept it with so puissant *wrest*,
 That back again it did aloft rebound,
 And gave against his mother earth a gronell sound. *F. 2.*
 Antenor is such a *wrest* in their affairs,
 That their negotiations all must slack'n
 Wanting his manage. *Shakspeare, Troilus and Cressida.*
 WRESTLE. *n. f.* [from *wrest*.] He who wrests.
 To WRESTLE. *v. n.* [from *wrest*.]
 1. To contend who shall throw the other down.
 You have lost the sight of good *wrestling*. *Shakspeare.*
 If ever he goes alone again, I'll never *wrestle* for prize
 more. *Shakspeare, As you like it.*